

REMARKS

Claims 1, 19, 20, 38 and 40 have been amended. Claims 2, 21, and 39 have been cancelled.

The Examiner has objected to claims 38 and 40 as being in conflict with each other.

Applicants have amended claim 40 to recite "stopping automatic control of the video camera if the video image of the video camera is not outputted" as suggested by the Examiner, thus correcting the informalities and obviating the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1, 3, 11-14, 19, 20, 30-33, 38 and 48-51 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the Blackshear (U.S. 5,111,288) patent. The Examiner has further rejected applicants' claims 2, 4-10, 15-18, 21-29, 34-37, 39-47 and 52-55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Blackshear patent in view of the Sasaki, et al. (U.S. 6,122,005) patent. Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 1, 19, 20 and 38, and with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1, 19, 20 and 38 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' independent claim 1 has now been amended to include the features of canceled claim 2. Thus, amended claim 1 now recites a control device adapted to start to execute automatic control of a video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to a computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period. Applicants' independent claims 19, 20 and 38 have been similarly amended.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. More particularly, the Examiner has acknowledged that the Blackshear patent fails to disclose a control device for automatic control of a video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period. The Examiner has, however, argued that the Sasaki, et al. patent discloses such features and, therefore, has concluded that the combined references would result in applicants' invention. Specifically, the Examiner has argued as follows:

"The Sasaki reference discloses in Figures 1-2 and 31-35, a camera control system (44) is capable to control a video camera (32) from a plurality of computer terminals (Communication terminal 50, 52, 54, 56 as shown in Figure 2) via a network (46); the camera control system executes automatic control (camera to the home position) of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period (camera control unit includes a time-out monitor 1132 which set a predetermined time period to cause a disconnect between the camera and the control unit, as state before, causes the camera to return to a "home position, See Col 20, lines 64-67). The Sasaki reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see the camera control system can preprogram the camera to go back to execute automatic control after the control command is not received for a predetermined time period instead just keep waiting the command to activity the automatic control of the camera. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see the camera control system can be preprogrammed to executes automatic control of the video camera if the control command is not received for a predetermined time period discloses by Blackshear."

Applicants respectfully disagree. In the Blackshear patent, the transmitter controller 42 starts to execute automatic control of the video camera only after a valid command has been entered via a keypad indicating that the operator wishes the system to enter its automatic surveillance mode. Col. 9, lines 35-46. In this mode, the camera 30 continues to move from preshot to preshot with preshot scenes being identified with descriptive word captions until a command is entered or an alarm is activated. Col. 10, lines 10-18.

Thus, the Blackshear patent does not disclose the starting of an automatic surveillance mode by the control device without a command from the system's operator indicating that the

operator wishes to enter the automatic surveillance mode. Accordingly, as stated above and acknowledged by the Examiner, the Blackshear patent does not teach or suggest a control device adapted to start to execute automatic control of a video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to a computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period.

The Sasaki, et al. patent also fails to teach or suggest such a construction. In the Sasaki, et al. patent, a camera management unit and/or a camera controller includes time-out monitoring units 1130, 1132, which limit the time a camera can be monopolized by any camera controller. In particular, the time-out monitoring units 1130 and 1132 measure elapsed time from the moment a connected camera has its settings newly changed or newly controlled and when the elapsed time has exceeded a predetermined length of time, the camera controller or the camera management unit is forcibly disconnected from the camera. Col. 20, lines 48-63. After the camera is disconnected from the camera controller, the camera is automatically positioned at the home position. Col. 19, lines 14-19.

Nothing is stated or shown in the Sasaki, et al. patent, however, which teaches or suggests starting to execute automatic control of the video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to the computer terminal if a control command for the video camera is not received for a predetermined period of time. Rather, the Sasaki, et al. patent teaches the process for disconnecting communication with a camera controller after a predetermined period of time has elapsed from a camera having its settings newly changed or controlled, and the image signal of the camera is never transmitted to the camera controller after the camera is disconnected. Accordingly, the Sasaki, et al. patent, like the Blackshear patent, also fails to teach or suggest a control device adapted to start to execute automatic

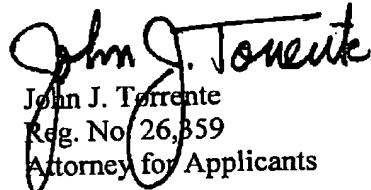
control of a video camera with transmitting image signals obtained by the automatic control to a computer terminal if the control command for the video camera is not received from the computer terminal for a predetermined period. The combined teachings of the patents, contrary to the Examiner's argument, therefore, cannot and do not teach or suggest applicants' claimed invention.

Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 19, 20 and 38, and their respective dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over the Blackshear patent taken with the Sasaki, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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